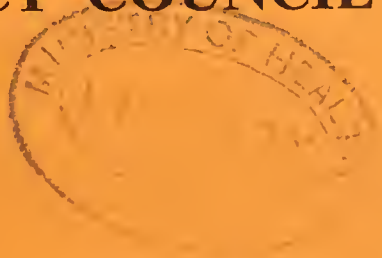


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ROYSTON
(YORKS.)
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1952

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

— 1952 —

COUNCILLOR G. H. COOKE,

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

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Chairman of the Council

Staff of the Public Health Department


Medical Officer of Health

J. R. MURDOCK (Mod) B.A., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

G E. MILLAR, M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B., M.Inst.M.

Certified Inspector of Meat and Other Foods



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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council—

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The Statistics again show that the health of residents in Royston was well maintained.

For the first time this report contains the crude and corrected Birth and Death Rates. The corrected rate is, as you are aware, obtained by applying the comparability factor to the crude rate. This factor, obtained from the Registrar General, is based on the age and sex composition of the population. Royston, being a young population group, the Crude Death Rate (9.6) on correction became 11.7 which compares with the England and Wales population figure of 11.3 and very favourably with the Aggregate of the West Riding Urban Districts at 12.1.

The Birth Rate shows a considerable decrease. While this is a Nation wide trend it has been extremely marked in Royston in the last year and the corrected figure of 16.8 compares with 19.0 for 1951. The Nation wide figure has dropped from 15.5 in 1951 to 15.3 in 1952.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 64.5 compared with the National figure of 29.6 and the figure for the previous year of 26.0. As the Infant Mortality Rate is considered a good index of the social state of the community the figure for 1952 might give rise to alarm. There is, however, no cause whatsoever for worry, as, owing to the smallness of the number involved (8), any rate between 64.5 ± 45.6 that is 110 or 19 could be considered due to chance, and could not be termed significantly different from the rate of 27.6 for England and Wales.

There were no serious outbreaks of Infectious Diseases during the year.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area in Acres	1,452
Population (estimated)	8,115
No. of inhabited Houses	2,336
Rateable Value	£28,626
Product of a penny rate	£108

WATER SUPPLY

Source of Supply

The Township continues to receive water in bulk from the Corporation of Barnsley, via the Council's service reservoir at Carlton. A sufficient supply to the reservoir has been maintained, and it was not necessary to issue economy warnings during the year.

Consumption for the year 61,759,000 gallons.

Consumption per day 167,883 gallons.

Consumption per day per head 20.68 gallons.

No restriction on consumption was imposed during the year.

Principal Vital Statistics for the Year 1952

(Based on the Registrar General's figures)

	Royston Urban District		Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Admins. County	England and Wales (Prov. Figures)
BIRTH RATE	Crude	Correct			
(per 1,000 estimated population)	15.9	16.8	15.4	15.4	15.3
DEATH RATE					
(per 1,000 estimated population)					
all causes	9.6	11.7	12.1	11.5	11.3
Infective and Parasitic Diseases excl. TB but incl. Syphilis and other VD	0.25		0.07	0.07	X
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	0.12		0.17	0.16)	
Tuberculosis, other forms	0		0.03	0.03)	0.24
Cancer	1.97		2.02	1.92	X
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	1.23		1.88	1.74	X
Heart and Circulatory	3.94		4.66	4.35	X
Respiratory Diseases	0.69		1.21	1.15	X
MATERNAL MORTALITY					
(per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	0		0.88	0.80	0.72
INFANT MORTALITY					
(Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births)	64.5		30.1	30.0	27.6
STILL BIRTHS					
(Rate per 1,000 total Births)	38.9		25.0	24.5	22.6

X Figures not available

DEATHS

The following table shows the causes of Death and is amended for inward and outward transfers:—

	Under 1		1-14		15-44		45-64		65-69		70 and over		Total
	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	m	f	
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Malignant Lung, Bronchus	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Malignant Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Malignant Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	4	1	9
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia, Pernicious Anaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	4	11
Coronary Disease, Angina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Hypertension, Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	1	1	5	7	19
Other Circulatory Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	4	7
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Gastritis, Enteritis or Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Nephritis or Nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Congenital Malformations	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Prematurity	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Asphyxia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Motor Vehicle Accident	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All other accidents	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
	6	2	1	—	3	3	13	2	3	4	22	19	78

BIRTHS

During 1952, 63 Male and 61 Female births, making a total of 124 Births were notified. There was only one illegitimate birth during 1952. In 1951, 154 births were notified. 65% mothers were confined in Maternity Homes or Hospitals, as compared with 59% in 1951.

STILL BIRTHS

There were 5 Still Births, 2 Male and 3 Female notified. In 1951, only 1 Still Birth was notified.

PREMATURE BIRTHS

(Baby weighing 5½-lb. or less at birth).

There were 7 Premature Births notified during the year, of these 2 died. 2 were born at home and 5 in hospital. 1 case was associated with Twin Pregnancy, 1 Congenital Deformity, 1 Toxaemia of Pregnancy and 1 due to mental shock. In the remaining cases no obvious cause was found.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

(Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births)

During 1952 a total of 8 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, consisting of 6 Male and 2 Female. The causes of death were as follows:—

Rhesus incompatibility Male aged 1 week

Whooping Cough Male aged 3 weeks

Congenital Malformations Male aged 1 hour

Asphyxia Male aged 1½ hours

Prematurity Male aged 1 week

Prematurity Male aged 3 days

Broncho Pneumonia Female aged 4 months

Congenital Malformations Female aged 1 month

The Infant Mortality Rate was 64.51 per 1,000 notified Live Births. The Live Births in 1952, were 124 as against 154 in 1951, and the Infant deaths under 1 year were twice as many as in 1951.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases other than Tuberculosis during 1952.

Scarlet Fever

8 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, and out of these 7 were treated in hospital, and 1 at home. Being now of a mild nature, it is unusual to find such a large proportion of cases admitted to hospital. In fact, cases, in the main, nowadays are admitted because of home conditions. 2 cases were notified in 1952.

Pneumonia

There were 2 cases of pneumonia in 1952 compared with 4 in 1951. Both cases were treated at home.

Whooping Cough

During 1952, 47 cases of Whooping Cough were reported, compared with 36 cases in 1951. 1 case was admitted to hospital, an infant of 3 months, and was fatal. This is a very likely outcome when a subject of this age contracts the disease, and points to the necessity for deferring until as late an age in childhood as possible this and other common childhood infections.

Measles

24 cases of Measles were notified during 1952, this compares with 218 cases in 1951 and with 62 cases in 1950. This follows the usual pattern for the epidemiology of this disease, i.e. an outbreak every 2 or 3 years.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

	No. of Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Died
Scarlet Fever	8	7	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	47	1	1
Measles	24	—	—
	—	—	—
	81	8	1
	—	—	—

The following table shows the age distribution of Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	—	1	6	1	—	—	—
Measles	6	9	9	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	28	13	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	38	28	1	1	1	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Staff: Mrs. Cartledge—Tuberculosis Health Visitor

1. Cases on Register at 1st January, 1952:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
22	11	3	4	40

2. No. of new notifications received during the year:—

Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	9	
Non-Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	—	9
In 1951 the figures were as follows:—					
Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	6	
Non-Pulmonary	.....	.....	.....	4	10

3. No. of cases removed from the Register during 1952:—

	Cured	Died	Left district	Total
Pulmonary	2	1	2	5
Non-Pulmonary	2	—	1	3

The number of deaths registered in 1952 was the same as reported in 1951, there being only one death.

4. No. of cases admitted to Sanatorium during 1952:— 11.

5. No. of cases on register at 31st December, 1952:—

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
Males	Females	Males	Females	
25	12	2	2	41

6. Distribution of notifications:—

	0-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over
Females	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Males	—	1	3	—	—	1	—
Total	—	1	5	1	1	1	—

7. Occupations of notified cases:—

Scholar	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case
Miner	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case
Factory Worker	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case
Housewife	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 cases
Farm Worker	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case
Office Staff	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case
Bus Fitter	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 case

8. Tuberculosis care and after-care scheme

(a) **Provision of Extra Nourishment**

6 patients received 2 pints of milk daily under the County Council's Care and After-care Scheme.

(b) **Loan of Equipment**

No further patients were loaned bedding and equipment during the year, but 4 continued to have bedding and equipment on loan under the County Council Scheme.

Statistics relating to Diphtheria Immunisation, Vaccination and Whooping Cough Immunisation, for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Diphtheria Immunisation

No. of children Immunised in 1952	Booster Doses in 1952	No. of children Immunised at any time up to 31/12/52	Estimated Mid-year Population in 1952	Percentage Immunised
Under 5 years 76		Under 5 years 416	Under 5 years 660	Under 5 years 63.0
5-14 Years 65		5-14 Years 1230	5-14 Years 1533	5-14 Years 80.2
Total 141	265	Total 1646	Total 2193	

Vaccination

	Under 1 yr. 1952	1-4 yrs. 1948-51	5-14 yrs. 1938-47	15 years and over	Total
Primary	15	2	—	—	17
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	—	—

Whooping Cough Immunisation (commenced 1/4/52)

Age at 31/12/52 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	Total
Number Immunised	4	17	6	2	—	29

HOSPITAL FACILITIES

Isolation

Patients are admitted to Kendray Isolation Hospital.

General

The Beckett and St. Helen Hospitals, Barnsley; the Jessop Hospital, Royal Hospital and Royal Infirmary, Sheffield; and the County General, Wakefield, supply the needs of the area.

Maternity

Patients are admitted in the main to the Maternity Wing of St. Helen's Hospital, and a small number to Pindar Oaks Maternity Home, Barnsley.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The area is served by the Public Health Laboratory, County Medical Offices, Wood Street, Wakefield.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Staff: Domiciliary Midwives—Nurses Ward and Maclean.

Health Visitor—Miss K. Power;

Miss M. I. Spedding commenced 1/7/52.

Child Welfare Centres

Wesleyan Sunday School High Street Royston Dr. Gothard	Wednesday 10-12 noon 2-4 p.m.	No. of children who attended during the year	Total Attendances	
			Under 1 yr.	Over 1 yr.
		360	2779	2140

An official from the Food Office attends the Royston Child Welfare Centre for the distribution of Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil, etc. As you are aware, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil are available through the Food Office sources for all expectant mothers, and for children until they attain 5 years. The Cod Liver Oil is a free issue but a nominal charge is made for the Orange Juice.

Ante Natal Clinics

Wesleyan Sunday School High Street, Royston Dr. Tapissier	Tuesday 2-4 p.m.	No. of Women who attended during the year	Total number of attendances made by women during the year
		72	343

Post Natal attendances during the year—7

HOME NURSING

Staff: Nurse E. A. Walker

The total number of new cases undertaken for the area was 112.

The total number of visits made to patients during the year was 3,349.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Staff: Miss K. Power, Health Visitor and School Nurse.

Miss M. I. Spedding, Health Visitor and School Nurse.
Commenced 1/7/52.

Routine School Medical Inspections were carried out by
Dr. S. G. A. Henriques at the undermentioned schools:—

Royston Modern Boys' School.
Royston Modern Girls' School.
Royston Junior Boys' School.
Royston Junior Girls' School.
Royston County Infants' School.

Summary of Defects found at the inspections at the aboveschools :—

School visited	No. of children examined	Defects found				Orthopaedic		No. passed for treatment
		Ocular	E.N.T.	Heart	Lungs	Orthopaedic	Others	
Royston Modern Boys	73	26	6	—	—	4	4	31
Royston Modern Girls	75	30	4	—	1	3	12	34
Royston Junior Boys	191	35	17	5	8	1	31	49
Royston Junior Girls	147	34	11	3	4	8	15	30
Royston County Infants	226	9	17	3	22	1	37	23
	712	134	55	11	35	17	99	167

CLINICS

School Clinics

Wesleyan Sunday School High Street, Royston Dr. J. R. Murdock	Each Friday in the School Year	No. of Individual attendances	Total No. of attendances
		156	308

Specialist Clinics

1. Ophthalmic Clinic (One Clinic per week)

Mr. N. L. McNeil, M.B., D.O.M.S., Ophthalmologist from 7/4/52.

No. of children examined in 1952	190
No. of children seen for the first time	90
No. for who glasses were ordered	79

2. Orthopaedic Clinic (Two Clinics per month)

Mr. T. L. Lawson, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon.

No. of children examined	15
Total attendances	17
No. of appliances ordered	3
No. of appliances obtained	3

3. Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics (One Clinic per month)

Mr. W. L. Rowe, F.R.C.S., E.N.T. Surgeon.

No. of children examined	10
Total attendances	22
No. of children referred for removal of tonsils and adenoids	—

4. Paediatric Clinic (One Clinic per month)

Dr. C. C. Harvey, M.D., M.R.C.P., Paediatrician.

No. of children examined	19
Total attendances	25

Special Clinics

1. Child Guidance Clinics

Dr. M. M. MacTaggart, M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D., Educational Psychologist.

No. of children examined	30
Total attendances	186

2. Speech Therapy (One Clinic per week)

Miss C. M. Seeley, L.C.S.T., Speech Therapist until August, 1952.

Miss P. J. Fisher, L.C.S.T., Speech Therapist from 22/9/52.

No. of children seen	10
Total attendances	100

3. Minor Ailments

No. of sessions held	25
No. of children found to have defects	153
No. of children treated	132

SCHOOL MILK AND MEALS

Return of Milk and Meals supplied on a typical day in 1952 from figures by the Divisional Educational Officer:—

School		No. attend- ing on				Milk		Dinners	
		No. on Roll	selected	day	$\frac{1}{2}$ pt.	$\frac{3}{4}$ pt.	Free	Paid	
Royston	Modern Boys	330	297	222	—	29	116		
Royston	Modern Girls	276	240	168	—	30	96		
Royston	C. of E. J.M. & I.	208	186	164	2	12	70		
Royston	Junior Boys	225	223	168	—	18	61		
Royston	Junior Girls	209	187	182	5	25	57		
Royston	Council Infants	324	271	252	—	18	71		
		1572	1404	1156	7	132	471		

The above figures show that not all the pupils at school are availing themselves of the free milk issue. As in the past this is particularly noticeable amongst the older pupils. Only some 75% of the older boys and 70% of the girls are taking their $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of school milk daily. The corresponding figure for the older boys last year was 50%. Thus this year there is a marked improvement, and for the first time slightly more of the older boys than older girls are taking their milk. Milk being such a valuable food, in their own interest children should be encouraged to drink it.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The number of cases attended by Home Helps during the year was as follows:—

	B/Fwd	New Applic- ations	Termin- ations	At 31/12/52	No. of hours	Percentage of total hours
Maternity	—	8	7	1	499	11.8
Tuberculosis	—	2	—	2	397	9.4
Chronic Sick (incl. aged and infirm)	4	12	10	6	2458	58.1
Others	—	3	2	1	874	20.7
	4	25	19	10	4228	

This service continues to be in great demand. It is, however, an extremely difficult service to administer, as, being a very costly one, it is, of necessity, limited, and the facilities available have to be shared amongst the cases on their relative merits.

As in the past it will be noted that the aged made the greatest demand. This is one of the most difficult features from an administrative point of view as most aged cases are long termed ones and some of these cases have been on the books since the inception of the service in 1948. It is interesting to note that the aged absorbed 58% of the service available.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

All Inspectors of Weights and Measures of the West Riding County Council are appointed Sampling Officers for the purpose of the above Act. The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures has kindly given the following particulars of samples taken in the Royston Urban District for analysis in the past four years:—

Milk					1949	1950	1951	1952
Genuine	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	8	8	12
Adulterated	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	1	2
Other Foods								
Genuine	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	10	10	9
Adulterated	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	2	2	—
Drugs								
Genuine	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	2	1	—
Adulterated	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—	—

Of the two adulterated milk samples procured in the Royston Urban District one was found to be slightly low in fat content and the Clerk of the County Council issued a letter of caution to the vendor.

A sample of milk was found to contain added water but the milk could not be proved to be intended for sale for human consumption, therefore no action was taken.

CONCLUSION

To conclude this report I record the co-operation I have received from the Officials of the Council and the loyalty and enthusiasm of the Divisional Staff.

As I am about to take up a new appointment this will be the last report I shall have the privilege of presenting to you. I appreciate the courtesy and consideration which has been shown to me whilst I have been an Officer of your Authority.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. R. MURDOCK,

Medical Officer of Health

ROYSTON (Yorks) URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1952

To the Chairman and Members of the Royston Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to submit my seventh Annual Report showing the work done in the Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

As in previous years, that portion of the Report dealing with the Public Cleansing Service and Salvage refers to the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1953.

Although there was some easing in the supply position for varying building materials, it could not be said that the position eased sufficiently to allow very great strides to be taken in the matter of the repair and re-conditioning of existing properties, and such work was retarded, not a little, by reason of the fact that the Building Programme absorbed much the greater proportion of available building labour. In spite of this, however, the amount of repair work which was carried out during the year was by no means inconsiderable. Even so, however, much still requires to be done to existing properties if normal deterioration of fabric, which became more rapid during the period when works of repair and re-conditioning were held up, is to be checked and prevented from reaching the stage when minor works of repair are ineffective, and the increasing costs of such work, coupled with the Economic considerations of pegged rents, make it impossible to carry out necessary works to bring properties back even to a reasonable standard of fitness.

In districts such as this, the heavy pollution of the atmosphere increases the rate at which building fabrics deteriorate, and, as has been stated in previous Reports, the domestic chimney is a large factor in the amount of pollution present in the atmosphere.

Verminous Houses

As in previous years, this matter continues to receive attention.

During the year, the following properties were dealt with :—

Type of House	Infested	Treated
Council Houses	4	4
Other Houses	10	10

As in previous years, houses found to be infested were treated according to the type and degree of infestation. Infestations of bed bugs continue to be treated by spraying with liquid insecticide containing either D.D.T. or Gammexane whilst cockroach and silverfish infestations were treated Gammexane Dust.

It is pleasing to be able to report that although there continued to be some infestation of the Council's Refuse Tip by crickets, the infestation was by no means as severe as had been the case in previous years. This I attribute to the fact that adequate covering of the Tip by surplus soil from various sources was able to be carried out. At the same time, however, the quantities of garden refuse, hedge clippings, etc., continued to be found in increasing quantities in dustbins and this material resulted in less consolidation of the Tip as well as providing ample supplies of food on which the insects fed. Treatment of the various working faces with Gammexane Dust continued during the year with pleasing results.

As in previous years, the closest possible co-operation was maintained with the Housing Department. Council houses found to be verminous in previous years, continued to be kept under observation for possible re-infestation. In this connection, the two traditional type houses on the Pinfold Estate where sporadic evidences of infestation had appeared previously, again showed evidence of re-infestation which did not respond to spray treatment. It was decided, therefore, that the only adequate method of dealing with these houses was recourse to Liquid H.C.N., since which time no evidence of further infestation has been apparent. In one other case, a slight bed bug infestation responded to treatment by spraying since which time no further trouble has been experienced.

In all cases, the full co-operation of the tenants concerned was able to be obtained.

As in previous years, specimens of various insects were brought into the office for classification where tenants were suspicious, and it would appear that much prejudice is now being broken down, and the tenants of properties are more ready to come to seek advice and information.

The practice of issuing small quantities of powder to tenants of infested houses continued throughout the year and this continues to appear to be greatly appreciated. Judging by the smaller number of complaints of cockroaches received, the use of this powder must be having some beneficial results and, as tenants realise that eradication of infestations can only be a gradual process, even though it appears tedious, so may it be hoped that the very widespread cockroach infestation throughout the District of a few years ago will be brought under control and eventually eliminated.

TRANSFER OF TENANTS TO COUNCIL HOUSES

The system of previous years whereby the houses and effects of tenants selected as tenants of Council houses, both new and existing, were inspected for the presence of vermin prior to removal continued to operate.

During the year, 27 houses were inspected in accordance with the Council's instructions. In only two instances was there any suspicion of infestation, and it is gratifying to be able to report that preventive spraying prior to removal resulted in each instance in the suspected infestation proving not to be a "live" infestation.

As reported in previous years, the vast majority of tenant selected as tenants for Council owned houses take pride in keeping their new houses clean, but some instances still remain where more care could be exercised to maintain new houses in good condition.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

(a) Water Supply

As reported last year, no samples of water (other than those obtained by the Barnsley Corporation) were obtained during the year for Chemical or Bacteriological examination.

(b) Closet Accommodation

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in the District at the end of 1952 are as follows :—

Type	No.
Water Closets	2442
Privies	49
Chemical Closets	2

During the year seven additional closets were provided for existing properties and 46 were constructed for new houses.

Two privies were reconstructed during the year, at the owners' expense, to the water carriage system of drainage.

The remaining privies in the District do not, at the moment, lend themselves to conversion owing to the inaccessibility of sewers. The provision of sewerage must remain, for the time being, as a matter for future planning, but instructions were issued during the year, that the possibility of sewerage the lower end of Summer Lane to open up that part of the District for possible housing development and to make it possible to convert the privies at Guiseley Cottages, should be investigated.

During the year, the question of the unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at the Ring O' Bells Inn was taken up with the Brewery Company. Agreement as to works required was reached, but the matter was prolonged owing to the necessity of necessary Licences being issued by the Ministry of Works to allow the work to be executed. It is pleasing to be able to report, however, that towards the end of the year, information was received to the effect that the necessary licences would be issued and that it was anticipated work would be started early in 1953.

Approach was again made during the year by the occupiers of properties in Lee Lane, where sewerage is not available and drainage is to cesspools, that on account of the high cost of cleansing the cesspools (this work was carried out by the Wakefield Rural District Council under private arrangements made with the occupiers) the Council undertake such cleansing. As this Authority own no appliances to enable such work to be undertaken, approach was made to neighbouring Authorities who had such appliances to ascertain whether, should the Council undertake such work, arrangements could be made for this work to be done. A survey of all cesspools in the District was made with the Chief Sanitary Inspector to the Darton Urban District Council, but in some instances, access to cesspools was not readily available and in others excessive lengths of suction hose would be required. After very full consideration, the Council again decided that they could not, for the present at any rate, undertake to accept responsibility for this work.

(c) **Public Cleansing Service**

The following report on the Public Cleansing Service is for the Financial Year ended March, 1953.

Details of the various types of refuse receptacles in use in the District at the end of the year were as shown below :—

Dustbins	2213
Dry Ashpits	Nil
Privy Middens	35
Chemical Closets	2

Two privies with two middens were converted during the year, galvanised iron dustbins being provided for the reception of domestic refuse. In one of these cases, cleansing of the privy had never been undertaken by the Council, arrangements for its cleansing being left in the hands of the owner-occupier.

The cleansing of all remaining privies continued to be carried out by the Public Cleansing staff, and outside assistance was discontinued. Privies are cleansed monthly, and the system whereby the Public Cleansing Staff work overtime on this work to ensure that cleansing is carried out early in the morning, and so that the regular weekly cleansing of the District should be maintained, continued.

The following Table gives details of the number of refuse receptacles emptied during the year, together with the number of loads and their estimated weight.

Receptacles		No. Emptied	No. of Loads	Estimated Weight		
				T.	C.	Q.
Dustbins, etc.	.....	124,074	1832	4946	10	0
Privies	.....	375	78	210	12	0
Trade Refuse	.....		154	77	0	0
Totals		124,449	2064	5234	2	0

It is again pleasing to be able to report that the labour position was able to be maintained throughout the year, temporary labour having to be obtained only for the holiday period.

With the continuing expansion of the Housing Programme, the work of the Public Cleansing Staff continues to increase and become more arduous. Up to the present time, however, it has not been found necessary either to increase the staff employed on this most essential work, but continuing extension of the Housing Programme will probably result, unless the regular weekly cleansing of the District which has been maintained during recent years is discontinued and a less frequent collection resorted to, in the slight increase in the numbers of the Council's Public Cleansing Staff.

Having attained a regular weekly cleansing of the District, it would, in my opinion, be a retrograde step to resort to a less frequent cleansing.

It would appear that the workmen engaged on this essential work of environmental hygiene no longer suffer from the stigma which attached itself to their predecessors who were mainly engaged on the cleansing of privies and that people, as a whole, realise that the regular removal of refuse is essential to the maintenance of health.

COSTING

House and Trade Refuse	Collection	Disposal	Totals
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages	1996 10 6	376 2 7	2372 13 1
Petrol and Oil	137 12 11	— — —	137 12 11
Spares, repairs, etc.	86 3 2	6 16 2	92 19 4
<hr/>			
Totals— EXCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	2220 6 7	382 18 9	2603 5 4
<hr/>			
Cost per ton	8 8½	1 5½	10 2
<hr/>			
General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	291 17 2	27 10 8	319 7 10
<hr/>			
Total Cost INCLUDING General Administrative Charges and Depreciation	2512 3 9	410 9 5	2922 13 2
<hr/>			
Cost per ton	9 9½	1 6½	11 4
<hr/>			
Estimated Population (Mid-summer 1952—			
Registrar General's Figures) .....	.....	.....	8,115
No. of houses or premises in the District .....	.....	.....	2,653
Rateable Value of the District .....	.....	.....	£29,416
Product of 1d. Rate .....	.....	.....	£105/11/5
Total Rates in the £ .....	.....	.....	22/6d.
			T. C. Q.
Total Tonnage Collected .....	.....	.....	5234 2 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per annum .....	.....	.....	654 5 0
Output of Refuse per 1,000 population per day .....	.....	.....	1 16 0
Average length of haul .....	.....	.....	1 mile

Based on the estimated weight, the weight of house refuse collected per 1,000 population per day was equal to almost 35 cwt. This figure again shows a slight increase over that for the year 1951/52, due to more houses coming into full occupation. The improved quality of "home" coal which had been apparent in previous years did not appear to be maintained with a resultant increase in the amount of heavy contrary matter in domestic refuse. This figure remains high, but, as has been stated in previous Reports, it is probably a direct result of the majority of householders in the District being in receipt of concessionary coal. In this respect, although the quantity of such concessionary coal was reduced slightly comparatively recently, the amount of coal going into most houses still remains much higher than is the amount allowed to householders not entitled to such coal. As a result, economy in the use of fuel has not to be exercised as must be the case where supplies of such fuel are limited.

It is of interest to note, however, that in quite a number of instances, modern, fuel saving heating and cooking appliances were installed in existing houses during the year, and on more than one occasion, advice was sought by owners and occupiers as to the type of appliance which should be installed. That advice was sought gives cause for some satisfaction.

As has been reported in previous years, it is with regret that I have again to report that the amount of combustible material present in house refuse continues at a very high level, and the increasing quantities of garden refuse, etc., being placed in dustbins gives cause for alarm and increases very considerably the risk of fire in the Council's Refuse Tip.

On one occasion during the year, fire occurred under the hedge adjoining the Tip, due, in all probability to a small fire having been lighted in the field adjoining the Tip which spread to dry grass etc., in the hedge bottom. Fortunately, this was able to be got under control before actually firing the tip itself.

In calculating the cost per ton, no allowance is made for income from the sale of various classes of salvage. Income from this source during the year amounted only to £100/16/9 of which details and further information is given in that part of this Report dealing with Salvage. This income reduces the cost per ton (collection and disposal) to 11/-, a reduction of 4d. per ton.

The cost of the Public Cleansing Service, expressed as Cost per ton (collection and disposal), shows an increase during the year—11/4d. for the year 1952/53 as against 10/3d. for the year 1951/52, and this increase is again due to increases in wages, running costs due to the increase in the cost of petrol and oil and to overtime being worked for the cleansing of privies.

In spite of the increase, however, I am of the opinion that costs in this District continue to compare favourably with those of other Districts in this Area.

SALVAGE

As in previous years, the separation of various classes of Salvage continued to be an integral part of the Public Cleansing Service.

Unfortunately, however, a serious slump in the waste paper market resulted in a serious fall in income, the income falling to £100/16/9 as against £615/0/2 during the Financial Year 1951/52, but although this income was so much less, it did, as has already been stated, result in a slight reduction in the cost of the Public Cleansing Service expressed as Cost per ton.

The mutual arrangements between householders and pig and poultry keepers was maintained throughout the year, and kitchen waste continued to be collected.

The weights and values of the various classes of Salvage disposed of during the year are shown in the following Table :—

SALVAGE STATISTICS **Year ended March, 1953**

Material	Weight				Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	21	17	1	0	68	6	9
Rags		6	2	17	3	16	3
Ferrous Metals	5	14	3	0	28	13	9
	27	18	2	17	100	16	9

The value of waste paper fell considerably, but in addition, owing to the slump and the lack of adequate covered storage facilities, a large quantity had to be stored in the open pending collection, and this could only be sold at a very reduced rate.

DISINFECTION OF HOUSES AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In accordance with usual practice, disinfection was carried out at all houses where cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, and at other premises where requests were received for disinfection. Several requests were received during the year for houses to be disinfected after persons notified as suffering from Tuberculosis had stayed, and after deaths certified as due to Cancer.

It continues to cause satisfaction when householders will seek the advice of the Department in such instances, and disinfection will continue to be carried out when application for such service is received from householders.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

The following Table gives particulars of Inspections during the year :—

Nature of Inspection	No. of Visits Paid
Housing	
Housing and Public Health Acts	3140
Verminous Premises	201
Miscellaneous Housing	153
Works in Progress	1009
Meat and Food Inspection	
Slaughterhouses	31
Shops and Stalls	50
Other Premises	6
Butchers	52
Fishmongers and Poulterers	16
Grocers	110
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	20
Ice-Cream Premises	14
Food Preparing Premises	70
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	12
Foreign Matter in Cream Puff	49
Miscellaneous Food Visits	87
Infectious Diseases	
Inquiries and Disinfection	28
Miscellaneous	22
General Sanitation	
Water Supply	48
Drainage	472
Stables and Piggeries	48
Licensed Premises	12
Fried Fish Shops	19
Civil Defence	132
Scot Dyke	30
Barnsley Canal	72
Factories	32
Crickets	25
Bakehouses	12
Public Conveniences	76
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	2
Refuse Collection	194
Refuse Disposal	98
Rats and Mice	603
Schools	9
Shops	13
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	344
Interviews	457
Salvage	81
Issue of Petrol	132
Total Number of Visits	

(2) Complaints Received

During the year, 283 complaints were received, details of which are as shown below :—

Nature of Complaint	No. Received
Choked or defective drains	75
Dampness and/or dilapidations	19
Defective W.C. Cistern	10
Rats and Mice	41
Water in Cellar	2
Defective range	8
Overcrowding and Bad Housing Conditions	8
Defective water service pipe	11
Defective hot water cylinder	1
Defective Inspection Cover	2
Defective water closet apartment	7
Defective water closet pedestal	8
Defective door to W.C. apartment	1
Defective W.C. seat	1
Defective cone joint	1
Defective window cords	3
Defective eaves gutters	1
Dustbin not emptied	2
Defective inspection chamber	1
Subsidence	4
Defective coal stores	4
Defective sink waste pipe	5
Defective fireback	1
Defective front bars to range	2
Smoke Nuisance	5
Defective stone sink	2
Defective ceiling	4
Defective oven	2
Defective wash-copper firegrate	1
Choked sink waste pipe	2
Defective sink	1
Defective outbuildings	21
Defective window	1
Inadequate water supply	10
Dry Rot	1
Cockroaches	8
Suspected Wood Boring Beetle	1
Bugs	4
Silverfish	1
Nuisance from poultry	1

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FACTORIES ACT, 1937

During the year, two further premises were included in the Register and there was one deletion.

Premises included in the Register were inspected during the year, 33 inspections being made for the purpose.

No complaints of uncleanness were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year, two cases were found during routine inspections where cleansing was required, and these conditions were remedied following informal action.

Following extensions at the New Street Premises, it was suggested to Messrs. A. Valentine Stubbs Ltd., that the sanitary accommodation be reconstructed. At the end of the year, acting on this suggestion, the matter was already in the hands of Contractors.

No notifications under the provisions of Sections 110 and 111 of the Factories Act, 1937 (Outworkers) were received during the year.

The following Tables are extracts from the Form of Return submitted to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	33	— —
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	12	33	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT

As in previous years, no nuisance from smoke arising in the District was noted during the year under review, but considerable nuisance from both smoke and grit from outside the District continued from one of the stacks at the Monckton Colliery Unit and the Coking Plant. I have no information as to either the type of plant in operation, the type of fuel used or methods of stoking, but there is no visible evidence, at the moment, judging by the very considerable quantities of smoke issuing from the stack in question over prolonged periods, of any alteration or improvement to the steam raising plant. So far as the grit nuisance is concerned, I can only assume that this arises when coke is quenched.

So far as Smoke Nuisances generally are concerned, as has been mentioned in previous Reports, whilst there are no industrial stacks in the District likely to give rise to smoke nuisance, the District is ringed round by industrial stacks and burning colliery spoil banks, smoke from which drifts over the District continually according to the prevailing wind. The domestic chimney is a continuing cause of trouble, but this should gradually reduce as old and obsolete solid fuel burning appliances are replaced by modern appliances which have a higher efficiency and result in volatile matter in coal being consumed rather than being poured into the atmosphere as smoke. The use of such appliances will also be reflected in the amount of solid fuel burned, but having in mind the question of concessionary coal, the matter would appear to present some difficulty unless and until this question is reviewed in the light of modern progress.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

During the year, the various premises registered under the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were inspected during the year, details of the premises inspected being shown in the Table of Inspections. In all cases, except for minor matters, the premises were found to be in a generally satisfactory condition.

One prosecution was instituted under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act during the year, when complaint was received of a foreign body having been found in a cream puff. The matter was referred to the West Riding County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority who gave instructions for information to be laid. The case was heard by the Barnsley West Riding Magistrates when a fine of £5 together with costs was imposed.

HOUSING

During the year 1952, 615 houses were inspected for defects within the meaning of the Public Health and Housing Acts, 3,070 visits being made for the purpose.

Rather more work of repairing and reconditioning existing properties was apparent during the year under review, but the continuing shortages of materials and building labour limited the amount of work which could be done. The re-painting of older houses increased during the year and the new paint improved the appearance of older properties very considerably. The continuing scarcity of timber calls for more frequent and regular attention to external painting, not only from an appearance standpoint, but, provided deterioration of timber has not proceeded too far, also as a preservative of the timber itself.

The economic factor so far as older properties are concerned continues to have an ever increasing braking effect on the amount of repair and reconditioning work which can be carried out. Further advances in the price of materials and wages have resulted in building costs increasing still further whilst the financial return in the form of rent paid continues to be pegged. The whole question of Rent Control is a vexed one and one which, at the the moment at any rate, is not easy of settlement. As a direct result, many houses are beginning to show signs of rapid deterioration, and with atmospheres such as occur in this District, this deterioration unless kept in check, can only become rapidly and progressively worse. Even if some scheme as outlined in the Report for 1951 was brought into operation, it is doubtful whether necessary building labour would be available to carry out all the work requiring to be done, having in mind always that so much building labour is fully occupied on Housing Schemes both for Local Authorities and Private Enterprise.

The continuing shortages of materials in short supply requiring certificates to enable contractors to obtain such materials continued to result in information being received relative to works of repair and re-conditioning carried out other than as a result of notices from this Department, being received by the Department than would have been the case under more normal circumstances.

Considerably more evidence of properties being affected by mining subsidence became apparent during the year. As in previous years, where such evidence became apparent, the

attention of owners and agents was drawn to the matter, and on several occasions I was called into consultation by representatives of the National Coal Board. All such houses, together with those showing damage in previous years, were kept under observation during the year. In one instance, where there was danger of collapse of brickwork, immediate steps were taken by the National Coal Board to render the premises safe until such time as movement was no longer apparent after which full repairs will be carried out.

The number of complaints of overcrowding and/or bad housing conditions fell during the year, only 15 complaints being received as against 19 during 1951. All cases were investigated and reported to the Health Committee. During the year, 6 cases which had been reported to the Council were relieved. More and more cases of alleged overcrowding keep being reported, and most distressing circumstances are brought to light. Many instances remain where two or even three families occupy the same house and several cases occurred where single rooms were, in effect, occupied as separate dwellings. Even after the considerable progress made in providing new houses, the overall position does not, so far as can be seen, appear to have changed a great deal. At the same time, however, the continuing high cost of providing new houses can only be reflected in the rent charged for such houses, and there can be little doubt that payment of such rents must strain the financial resources of tenants, particularly should these be young married couples especially should they have a young family.

The question of moral overcrowding can only remain a serious social problem especially where two or three families occupy the same house. Parents have no hesitation in stating their worry in such cases where mixed families, with grown up sons and daughters and only two bedrooms and where adequate facilities for the proper separation of the sexes do not exist. So much has been said on this subject in previous years, that it is doubtful whether anything new remains to be said.

On the question of the unfit, insanitary house, again little more can be said than has already been said, and one can only stress that although results of continuing to live in such houses may not be apparent, the possibility of serious effects resulting in years to come must not be overlooked. This applies more particularly to younger children where the effects of living under overcrowded conditions in damp, dark houses may not become apparent for some years.

Whilst much has already been said and even more could be said about these houses, at the same time, as has been stressed in previous Reports, with all their shortcomings and draw-backs, such houses do, at least, provide shelter and allow families, especially those in the lower income groups, to occupy their own home rather than have to share a home with other families. At the present time, unless the fabric of such houses becomes dangerous or unstable, I feel that at least for a time active steps for their demolition will have to be deferred, as, even after the not inconsiderable number of houses completed and occupied since the cessation of hostilities, the waiting list for Council Houses does not appear to have diminished to any great extent. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that more people are marrying and therefore requiring houses than existing houses become available for letting.

Owners and Agents continue to be loath to spend large amounts of money on properties where serious signs of decay have become apparent and feel that the financial return from such property, coupled with the uncertainty of the probable continuing life of the houses, makes the outlay of large sums of money too speculative to be readily acceptable. It continues to be necessary, therefore, to try to keep such houses as weatherproof as possible without recourse to major works which would be the only satisfactory solution in trying to bring them back even to a reasonable standard of fitness. As a direct result, the general condition of these houses can only become progressively worse and will continue to do so until opportunity affords for formal action to be taken.

The two houses known as 225 and 227 Station Road, Royston, were demolished during the year.

Taken as a whole, therefore, the whole question of housing continues to be a very vexed one and the progress made with the provision of new houses does not appear, so far as can at present be ascertained, to have effected much improvement on the acute shortage of houses, and the diversion of building labour to the provision of new houses automatically limits the amount of repair and reconditioning work which can be carried out to older properties.

No further applications under the provisions of Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1949, for Improvement Grants were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

This matter continued to receive attention during the year and premises registered under Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 were kept under supervision during the year. School canteens were also visited.

Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

At the end of the year, two supplementary licences for the sale of milk under the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" remained in force in the District.

Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949

At the end of the year, the following Supplementary Licences remained in force :—

Milk to be sold under the Special Designation	
"Sterilised"	2
Milk to be sold under the Special Designation	
"Pasteurised"	3

Ice-Cream

Premises in the District registered under the provisions of Section 14(2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation, storage or sale of ice-cream were kept under regular supervision during the year.

Where applications were received for the registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream, Certificates of Registration issued specified that such premises were registered for the sale of wrapped ice-cream only.

Towards the end of the year, the premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream in the District ceased to be used for this purpose and were removed from the Register.

Meat Inspection

As in previous years, meat for sale in the various butchers' shops in the District was slaughtered at the Barnsley Abattoir and delivered to retail shops by motor vehicle, the vehicles used being the all metal, readily cleansed, insulated motor vehicles put into use in previous years. The amount of contamination during delivery was less than had been apparent during the previous years, but exception had to be taken in one instance to the condition in which a beast's head was delivered to a retail shop. This was found to be very unsatisfactorily cleansed and had to be condemned, but otherwise, no instance occurred where meat had to be returned to the abattoir.

The number of pigs slaughtered for home consumption again fell during the year, and I am of the opinion that in many instances arrangements were made for such pigs to be dressed at either Barnsley or Wakefield, and cured, before being returned to the owner. The carcasses of 30 pigs dressed in the District were inspected during the year when the following disease conditions were found :—

Tuberculosis

3 pigs' heads
1 pig's mesentery

There was only one case of Emergency Slaughter, and the carcase of the pig in question was sent to the Barnsley Abattoir.

The system in operation during previous years whereby circular letters were sent out with licences to slaughter by the Local Food Executive Officer continued during the year and continued to receive the support of pig-keepers. The premises recognised in previous years for the dressing of pigs continued to be used and almost all pigs slaughtered were dressed in these premises.

It is again pleasing to be able to report that the standard of pigs slaughtered maintained the high standard of earlier years and that pig-keepers continued to avail themselves of the opportunity of having their pigs inspected.

Other Foods

Details of other foodstuffs found to be unsound and which were voluntarily surrendered are as shown below :—

Type of Foodstuff	Quantity
Boiled Ham	124-lbs. 10-oz.
Jellied Veal	30-lbs.
Luncheon Meat	22-lbs.
Stewed Steak	5-lbs.
Peeled Tomatoes	11 x 2-lb. 3-oz. tins
	13 x 15-oz. tins
	1 x 6½-oz. tin
Orange Segments	4 x 14-oz. tins
Red Cherries	82 x 14½-oz. tins
Plums	3 x 1-lb. 13-oz.
	32 x 20-oz.
Beans	3 x 1-lb.
French Ham	20-lbs.
Cape Fish in Tomato Sauce	1 x 1-lb.
Peas	4 x 1-lb. 3-oz.
	1 x 15½-oz.
	1 x 8½-oz.

Sliced Carrots	.....	2 x 1-lb. 12-oz.
Sliced Oranges	.....	8 x 1-lb.
Mincemeat	.....	1 x 14½-oz.
Grade 3 Salmon	.....	1 x 3¾-oz.
1 Beast Head	.....	31-lbs.
Mixed Fish	.....	3-cwts. 1-qr. 14-lbs.
Sausage	.....	53-lbs.
Prunes	.....	3 x 1-lb. 14-oz.
Tomato Juice	.....	4 x 14-oz.
Milk	.....	4 x 2 pints
Strawberries	.....	4 x 20-oz.
		2 x 15-oz.
Baked Beans	.....	1 x 16-oz.
Balanced Canine Diet	.....	3 tins
Pineapple	.....	2 x 1-lb. 4-oz.
Beans in Tomato	.....	2 A1 tall tins
Tomato Soup	.....	1 x 16-oz.
Marmalade	.....	1 tin
Damson Jam	.....	1 x 1-lb.
Pork Butts	.....	3-lbs. 2-oz.
Kippers	.....	12-lbs.
Gooseberries	.....	1 x 14½-oz.
Fish Paste	.....	1 x 3-oz.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

As in previous years, the systematic treatment of infestations of rats and mice in the District continued.

A further 10% test of sewers was carried out, and as a result of this and the apparent lack of infestation, authority was received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to the effect that no further sewer treatment would be necessary during the year. It would appear therefore, that the work done in connection with sewer infestations was showing tangible results.

Further suspected infestations of rats and mice in the Junior Schools were treated, apparently with satisfactory results.

Routine follow-up treatments at the Council's Refuse Tip, Salvage Shed and Sewage Disposal Works continued throughout the year. The kill in all instances proved satisfactory, and at the end of the year, so far as could be ascertained, these Local Authority Undertakings appeared to free from infestation.

Private properties continued, as in previous years, to be treated under the Block Control Methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The shop premises found to be infested during 1951 were finally cleared during the year under review, and in no instances was evidence of re-infestation found.

The following Table is an extract from the Form of Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the year in question.

		Type of Property					Total
		Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business premises)		
I.	Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	5	2336	6	150	2497	
II.	Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of	(a)	26	—	8	34	
	(a) notification (b) survey or otherwise	27	22	8	17	74	
III.	Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats	Major 2 Minor 4	— 22	— —	— 8	2 34	
IV.	Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	7	—	—	7	
V.	Number of infested properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	29	—	8	43	
VI.	Number of Notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	
VII.	Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4 ...	—	—	—	—	—	
VIII.	Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—	
IX.	Number of "block" control schemes carried out	8					

Once again, it is pleasing to be able to report that in no instance was it found necessary to serve notice for the execution of treatment or structural works to be carried out, owners and occupiers of property being most anxious to co-operate to the full to clear infestations.

BARNSELEY CANAL

During the year, the question of the proposed abandonment of the Barnsley Canal by the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive, became a matter of prime importance.

The level of the water in the Canal fell even further, weed growths became more abundant, and flow in the canal became so small as to be also imperceptible. As in previous years, the matter was brought to the notice of the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive who took steps to have weed growths removed.

Steps were taken, also, to allow water to flow into the Canal from the Feeder Reservoirs to lift the general level of the water and to induce flow and so prevent stagnation of the water remaining in the Canal. Eventually, conferences were arranged by the Clerk of the County Council between all interested Parties to try to formulate plans as to what should happen to the Canal in the event of the Warrant for its abandonment being issued by the Ministry of Transport. At the end of the year, the matter had not been brought to finality.

This matter could very easily become a serious menace to the health of the District, and the Canal is being kept under strict and regular supervision so as to prevent, as far as possible, nuisance arising from it.

SCOT DYKE

This watercourse also gave rise to some trouble during the year. It became apparent that considerable masses of coarse vegetation were growing in the watercourse and impeding the flow of water in it. Approaches were made to all persons concerned in the hope of amicable arrangements being able to be made for the dyke to be completely cleaned out, vegetable growths removed and silt, etc., removed, the dyke itself being taken down to a proper graded bottom, but at the end of the year the matter had not been brought to finality.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Little more can be said on this matter than has been said in Reports for previous years. The public urinals continued to be badly mis-used, but the urinal on Midland Road which became more dilapidated, foul and a public nuisance, was dismantled.

The ever increasing need for the provision of modern, up-to-date conveniences for both sexes became more urgent, and following the withdrawal of the Objection by the Salvation Army to the proposed Public Conveniences on Midland Road, the scheme was proceeded with, costs being prepared and the whole Scheme was put to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for consideration and approval.

The outcome of this matter does not come within the period covered by this Report but will be included in a subsequent Report.

SUPPLY OF DUSTBINS

As reported in the Annual Report for 1951, Appeals were lodged against Statutory Notices served requiring the renewal of dustbins found to be defective and worn out. The cases were first heard by the Barnsley West Riding Magistrates' Court who held that the Notices should stand. Notice of Appeal to the Appeals Committee of the Quarter Sessions was received, and the result of this Appeal was that the decision of the West Riding Magistrates was reversed.

In the light of this decision, the whole matter was considered at great length, and it was finally decided that as from 1st January, 1953, dustbins would be supplied and maintained by the Council and charged to the Rate Fund.

Information on the new system for the supply and maintenance of dustbins will be given in a subsequent Report following the first year of operation of the Scheme.

CIVIL DEFENCE

I would like to express my appreciation of the facilities afforded me during the year under review to follow an Instructors' Re-Qualifying Course, and to report that at the examination held at the conclusion of this Course, I was successful in obtaining a Local Instructor's Certificate.

House-to-House canvasses for the recruitment of Volunteers to the Civil Defence Services were undertaken during the year with the assistance of enrolled Members of the Wardens Service which resulted in 92 volunteers being enrolled. Owing to lack of necessary furniture and equipment, training was not able to be started, but information was received from the County Council that necessary furniture would be provided for this purpose, and one room in the Council's Offices was set aside for use for Civil Defence Training purposes.

MORTUARY

Once again, it was not found necessary for any works, other than small works of maintenance, to be carried out to the Mortuary Building during the year.

CONCLUSION

The Sanitary Section of the Public Health Department once again had a busy and varied year.

I would again like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, my sincere appreciation of their continued support and encouragement during a busy year. I would like, also, to express my appreciation to the Medical Officer of Health for his continued support and for the most amicable working conditions which exist between his office and mine.

I am glad, also, of the opportunity of thanking my fellow Officials for the support and help which they have at all times afforded me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE E. MILLAR,

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent

